

1. A system for issuing a ticket for admission to a venue, comprising:
 - a) an Internet server capable of selling a ticket to a user, wherein the user can print the ticket directly from the Internet server;
 - b) an Internet connection between the user and the Internet server;
 - c) a venue computer system equipped to validate the ticket;
 - d) an Internet connection between the venue computer system and the Internet server.
2. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the Internet server tracks statistical information.
3. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the venue computer system configures venue and event settings on the Internet server.
4. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the connection used by the user is a basic modem dial-up connection, a high-speed dedicated circuit, a DSL or Cable connection, or a wireless connection.
5. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the Internet server is connected to the Internet via a high-speed dedicated circuit.
6. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the connection used by the venue computer system is a basic modem dial-up connection, a high-speed dedicated circuit, a DSL or

Cable connection, or a wireless connection.

7. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the Internet server includes an Internet ticketing on-line database.

8. A system in accordance with claim 7, wherein the venue includes a box office computer system, and further comprising integration between the box office computer system and the Internet ticketing on-line database to facilitate tracking of ticket sales and event management in the Internet ticketing on-line database.

9. A system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the integration between the box office computer system and the Internet ticketing on-line database occurs in real time.

10. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ticket includes a ticket key comprising a venue identification number and a ticket identification number.

11. A system in accordance with claim 10, wherein the ticket key comprises a bar code on a printed ticket.

12. A system in accordance with claim 11, further comprising a bar code scanner that validates the ticket.

13. A method for issuing a ticket for admission to a venue, comprising:
 - a) accessing an Internet web browser;
 - b) communicating with an Internet-based server to select an event and time desired;
 - c) comparing a total number of tickets already sold to a threshold set by the venue;
 - d) collecting and processing payment information through a checkout process;
 - e) generating a ticket identification number;
 - f) coupling the ticket identification number with a venue identification number for the venue for which the user is purchasing a ticket, thereby generating a ticket key;
 - g) generating an image encoded with the ticket key;
 - h) converting the image to a format that can be displayed by HTML rendering engines; and
 - i) printing the ticket.

14. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the ticket sale is declined if the threshold would be exceeded by the sale of the ticket.

15. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the server automatically cuts off ticket sales for specific events at a pre-determined number of minutes prior to the event once the threshold has been reached.

16. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein a user selects a specific seat for the event prior to printing the ticket.

17. A method in accordance with claim 13, further comprising the step of making an electronic request in real-time to a venue server for permission to sell additional tickets to a specific event prior to selling additional tickets to the specific event.

18. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the ticket key comprises a unique bar code.

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19. A system for notifying a venue that a bar coded Internet ticket has been sold, comprising:

- a) a venue computer;
- b) an Internet server that provides bar coded Internet tickets, the Internet server in communication with the venue computer;

wherein data that a ticket has been sold is transmitted between the Internet server and the venue computer.

20. A system in accordance with claim 18, wherein the venue computer includes bar coded Internet ticket processing software, and the venue includes a ticket-taker location.

21. A system in accordance with claim 19, wherein multiple venue computers and software located at the ticket-taker location are networked together using a local area network.

22. A system in accordance with claim 19, wherein the multiple computers are integrated into existing box office and concession management software in use at the venue via a software application programming interface.

23. A system in accordance with claim 19, wherein said data transmitted between the Internet server and the venue computer can be used to verify that a ticket has been sold.

24. A method for communicating information between a venue computer and a bar coded Internet ticket server, comprising:

- a) transmitting data from the venue computer to the Internet server;
- b) transmitting data from the Internet server to the venue computer;

wherein the data transmitted between the venue computer and the Internet server include information about new tickets sold, summaries of total tickets sold, tickets scanned, updates regarding available tickets, and/or changes to dates and times of events.

25. A method in accordance with claim 24, wherein transmission of data between the venue computer and the Internet server is conducted over a secure, encrypted transmission link.

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26. A method for providing access to a venue by transmitting a bar coded ticket for the venue from a ticket provider to a customer over a public communication interconnection comprising:

- a) transmitting a bar coded ticket from the ticket provider to the customer over the interconnection upon the request of the customer;
- b) printing the unique bar coded ticket into a format that can be presented to obtain access to the venue;
- c) presenting the printed ticket to access the venue.

27. A method in accordance with claim 26 wherein said venue is a movie theater.

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